

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An integral disposable absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso, said garment comprising:

a) a suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end, said suspension sling being suspendable in a wearer's crotch region; and

b) a waist belt having a first belt end secured to the suspension sling proximal end and a second belt end;

wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region and the second belt end attached to the first belt end at the suspension sling proximal end.

2. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said suspension sling comprises:

a) a liquid permeable topsheet;

b) a liquid impermeable backsheet associated with said topsheet; and

c) an absorbent structure positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet.

3. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 2 wherein the suspension sling further comprises an elastic element.

4. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 3 wherein the elastic element is disposed in at least one suspension sling side margin.

5. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said waist belt is elastically contractible.

6. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a belt attachment system.

7. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the belt attachment system is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

8. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the belt attachment system is a mechanical fastener.

9. (original) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 6, wherein said suspension sling distal end further comprises suspension sling fasteners.

10-12:(canceled)

13. (previously presented) An absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso, said garment comprising:

a) a reusable waist belt having a first belt end, a second belt end, a first sling attachment location proximate the first belt end, and a second sling attachment location disposed between the first and second belt ends; and

b) a disposable suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end, said suspension sling being attachable to the first and second sling attachment locations of the waist belt in a manner to suspend the suspension sling in a wearer's crotch region;

Appl. No. 09/464,582

wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region.

14. (original) The absorbent garment of claim 13 wherein the second sling attachment location is disposed approximately midway between the first and second belt ends.

15. (original) The absorbent garment of claim 13 wherein the waist belt and suspension sling comprise a belt closure system.

16. (original) The absorbent garment of claim 15 wherein the belt closure system comprises closure system elements at least at the first and second sling attachment locations and proximate the suspension sling distal and proximal ends.

17. (original) The absorbent garment of claim 16 wherein closure system elements join the first sling attachment location to the suspension sling proximal end.

18-20:(canceled)

21. (new) An integral disposable absorbent garment that may be worn about a human lower torso, said garment comprising:

a) a suspension sling for absorbing and containing body exudates, said suspension sling having longitudinally extending suspension sling side margins, a suspension sling distal end and a suspension sling proximal end, said suspension sling being suspendable in a wearer's crotch region; and

b) a waist belt having a first belt end secured proximate the suspension sling proximal end and a second belt end;

Appl. No. 09/464,582

wherein the waist belt is capable of encircling a user's waist with the suspension sling suspended in the wearer's crotch region by attaching the suspension sling distal end to a central portion of the waist belt and the second belt end attached to the first belt end.

22. (new) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 21, wherein said suspension sling distal end further comprises suspension sling fasteners.

23. (new) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said suspension sling fasteners comprise adhesive.

24. (new) The integral disposable absorbent garment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said suspension sling fasteners comprise mechanical fasteners.